STATEMENT

Wages in Manufacturing Sector in India, Other Asian and Developed Countries

ASIAN COUNTRIES	CURRENCY	PERIOD	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
SAARC								
India	Rupees	Monthly	988.4	1019.03	932.6	992.6	960.50	1211.00
Pakistan	Rupees	Monthly	1735.0	N.A.	N.A.	1501.0	N.A.	N.A.
Srilanka	Rupees	Daily	82.10	100.51	104.83	116.77	134.64	145.35
Other								
China	Yuan	Monthly	172.25	190.75	219.58	279.00	356.92	430.75
Hongkong	Dollers	Daily	179.5	200.7	218.6	241.7	266.6	278.0
Japan	Yen	Monthly	352020	368011	372794	371356	N.A.	N.A.
Malaysia	Ringgit	Monthly	660	719	794	848	925.0	N.A.
Singapore	Dollers	Monthly	1395.00	1551.80	1686.2	1817.8	1995.3	2157.3
South Korea	Won	Monthly	590.76	690.31	793.55	885.4	1022.5	1123.9
Thailand	Baht	Monthly	3357	3688	3986	4138	4229	9000
Developed Countries								
Australia	Dollars	hours	12.89	13.27	13.68	14.02	14.70	15.50
Canada	Dollars	hours	14.2	14.9	15.4	15.7	16.0	16.2
France	Francs	hours	45.46	47.47	49.36	50.60	N.A.	N.A.
Germany	Mark	hours	20.07	21.31	22.52	23.79	24.58	25.48
UK	Pound	hours	6.05	6.88	7.09	7.45	7.55	7.85
USA	Dollars	hours	10.83	11.18	11.46	11.74	12.07	12.37

Note: — Source:— Year Book Labour Statistics, 1997 of I.L.O.
— Combined figure of men and women
— N.A. — Not Available
— No information is available in respect of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal.

Trade Sanctions by USA and other Countires

171. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government believe that trade sanctions would not be imposed by United States and other countries opposed to India's recent nuclear tests as "India is on right side of W.T.O." and it did not violate W.T.O. norms, being the most favoured nation, as reported in "The Hindustan Times" dated the 17th May, 1998;

(b) if so, the details of discussions and outcome of Geneva meet held in May, 1998; and

(c) whether India was able to convince put forward its view satisfactorily before W.T.O., particularly, against unilateral trade sanctions imposed by U.S. and other countries which amount to violation of W.T.O. norms?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) No trade sactions have been imposed. Under the US Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act, 1994, there could be (i) prohibition of US exports of dual use goods and technology which was earlier subject ot export licensing, and (ii) termination of sale of defence articles, services, designs and termination of licences for the export of any item on the US Munitoins list. However, the precise scope and procedures of sanctions are yet to be clarified. India is of the view that trade sanctions specifically against India would be contrary to the Most Favoured Nation principle under the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade.

(b) and (c) The Second Ministerial Conference of WTO held on 18—20 May 1998 did not discuss this issue. The issue was raised bilaterally on by two delegations. At these biliteral meetings, the Indian delegation explained fully the

complete background behind our action in conducting nuclear tests and emphasised to them that our action should not be any cause of concern, and reiterated our continued commitment to global disarmament and peace.

Urban Land Celling Regulation Act

*172. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Urban Land Ceiling Regulation Act, 1976 has failed to achieve any of its objective;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any demand to repeal this Act; and

(d) if so, the reasons and the arguments therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (d) The Ubran Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Act, has failed to achieve its objectives due to its poor performance. Out of 2,20,675 ha. of estimated excess vacant land, 50,046 ha. of vacant land vested in the State Governments. Physical possession was acquired only of 19,020 ha. of vacant land by the State Governments. There has been a demand to repeal this Act so that the stock of urban land increases and development of urban land for various sectors namely housing, transport, industry, etc. may be availabale. The Legislatures of the State of Haryana and Punjab have passed a resolution of repealing the Act by the Parliament. The Government has decided to repeal this Act. Repeal of the Act will facilitate the availability and affordability of urban land, by increasing supply of urban land. It will also help is solving the shelter problem. as envisaged in the national agenda.

Growth rate of Steel Industry

*173. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:
DR. RANBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian steel industry grew at a rate lower than the GDP growth rate for the first time this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the correctived measures proposed, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): (a) The growth rate of finished (carbon) steel vis-a-vis GDP growth rate during the last 3 years was as under:—

	Growth Rate	GDP Growth rate at 1980-81 prices
1995-96	2.08%	7.2%
1996-97(P)	6.2%	7.5%
1997-98(P)	(–) 0.7%	5.0%(A)

(P)—Provisional; (Q)—Quick estimates
(A)—Advance estimates
@ Source: Economic Survey 1997-98

(b)and (c) The growth of the steel sector is dependent upon the growth of the economy in general and growth of industrial production and infrastructure sector in particular.

The major reasons for slow growth during 1997-98 in the steel sector include:

(i) Sluggish demand in the steel consuming sectors;

(ii) Overall economic slow down in the country;

(iii) Lack of investment by Government/private sector in major infrastructure projects;